



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services
Chief Probation Officer

At its meeting held August 26, 2003, the Board took the following action:

17

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Antonovich and Yaroslavsky:

“On May 16, 2003, a group of community leaders, spearheaded by the Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles, convened the first annual Education Summit to discuss the need to improve educational outcomes for abused and neglected youth under the jurisdiction of our dependency system. Recent studies have shown that foster youth have a higher risk of educational failure compared to other children of the same age. The constant disruption in these children’s lives often has a detrimental effect on their academic and home life.

“Although the Education Summit focused on foster youth, the County has long recognized that educational success is just as crucial for probation youth. Similar issues and barriers to appropriate education exist for all at-risk youth in Los Angeles County, whether they are in the dependency or delinquency systems.

“Participants in the Education Summit recommended that a council be created to oversee and coordinate the decisions relating to the education of abused and neglected youth. In Los Angeles County, there are committees, task forces and working groups that address the educational needs of foster and probation youth; however, there is no centralized group that coordinates all of these efforts.”

(Continued on Page 2)

17 (Continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Director of Children and Family Services and the Chief Probation Officer, in collaboration with the Children's Law Center, were instructed to:

1. Convene a workgroup that includes, but is not limited to, representatives from Los Angeles County Office of Education and other school districts, the judiciary, California Youth Connection, Commission on Children and Families, Probation Commission, Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council, Los Angeles City Commission on Children and Families, foster caregiver groups, Public Defender, and District Attorney; and
2. Report back to the Board within 90 days on the workgroup's recommendations regarding:
 - a. The feasibility of creating an Education Coordinating Council, to address the education needs of foster and probation youth, including a proposed model; and
 - b. The development of a new Education Unit within the Department of Children and Family Services or a joint Education unit between the Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation.

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